GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3065
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
AMENDMENT IN FOOD ADULTERATION ACT
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and make its provisions more stringent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the problem of extensive adulteration of various eatables?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) While there is already provision of life imprisonment in serious cases of adulteration, it is proposed to rationalize the offences and grade penalties based on the gravity of the offences, so that minor offences can be compounded and disposed off immediately and major offences can be concentrated upon. Provision of special courts for speedy disposal of PFA cases and fixing of time limits for investigations are also being proposed.

(d): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has urged the States to undertake investigational surveys regarding possible adulteration with specific emphasis on items of mass consumption. Sensitization programmes have been organized for State Food (Health) Authorities on the proper administration of PFA Act. Training programmes have been organized for analytical staff of State Food Laboratories and food inspectors. Under the proposed Capacity Building Project on food safety, State laboratories will be upgraded by supply of equipments and training of staff.